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ENGINEERS WITH V CORPS' 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION BUILD SIX FORTIFIED POLICE STATIONS IN SAMARRA IN SIX DAYS

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SAMARRA, Iraq — Engineers here assigned and attached to V Corps' 1st Infantry Division built one fortified police station a day for six days beginning Oct. 11 and spread them throughout the city.

The stations, which are expected to help keep Samarra's police force much safer, cost about \$100,000 apiece, said Sgt. 1st Class Armondo Cadena, a combat engineer and platoon sergeant with the division's C Company, 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry. Much of that money went to ensuring security. "They will withstand rocket-propelled grenades, car bombs, and mortars," Cadena said.

It took only five or six hours to finish each station, explained Sgt. Charles Miller, a heavy equipment operator with B Company, 216th Engineer Battalion.

"They were built from scratch," he said. "They each have four conexes (large shipping containers) that were built at FOB Speicher by carpenters from our company, then hauled here with all the concrete."

While it was important to give the police a place to work and Samarra residents a place to report problems, the overriding concern was for the officers' well-being.

"It'll be safer for the Iraqi police," Miller said. "The buildings are strong, with bunkers and barriers. You can't just drive right up to them."

But when the buildings went up, the police were supplied with more than concrete and a roof.

"Everything was put in — brooms, desks, chairs, paper. They had everything ready to go," Miller said.

The construction was part of the division's ongoing efforts to rebuild Samarra. Those efforts encompass several other projects, including schools, hospitals, and street repair.

